

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DOT-00 SSC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 FAA-00 COME-00

/069 W

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R 261100Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9232

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNATO BRUSSELS 791

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 3000

DEPT. PLEASE PASS DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CZ

SUBJECT: NEW FEDERAL MINISTER OF TRANSPORT NAMED.

1. ALL PRAGUE NEWSPAPERS NOVEMBER 22 CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT HUSAK HAD APPOINTED A NEW FEDERAL MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ON PREVIOUS DAY. NEW MINISTER IS ING. (ENGINEER) VLADIMIR BLAZEK WHO IS FROM REGION OF OLOMOUC. REPORTEDLY, BLAZEK HAS WORKED WITH CZECHOSLOVAK RAILWAYS FOR PAOST SEVERAL YEARS AND HIS LATEST POST WAS THAT OF CHIEF OF CENTRAL RAILWAYS. PRESS ACCOUNT OFFERED NO EXPLANATION FOR DISMISSAL OF FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, DR. STEFAN SUTKA, OTHER THAN THAT HE HAD REQUESTED HIS OWN RECALL AND HAS NOW BEEN ASSIGNED OTHER TASKS WHICH WERE NOT DESCRIBED. NEW MINISTER WAS BORN ON APRIL 5, 1929.

2. COMMENT: RUMORS HAD SPRUNG UP, PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, IN WAKE OF RECENT CRASH OF YUGOSLAV AIRLINER
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ON OUTSKIRTS OF PRAGUE PREDICTING SHIFT IN TOP SLOT AT

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, BUT EMBASSY HAD NO HARD FACTS TO
REPORT BEFORE THIS. THERE WAS ALSO CSA AIRCRASH RECENTLY NEAR
DAMASCUS.) WHILE LAPSES IN SAFETY PROCEDURES AT PRAGUE'S
RUZYNE AIRPORT HAVE BEEN REPORTEDLY PINPOINTED
AS BASIC CAUSE OF AIR CRASH, AND THUS MAY HAVE TRIGGERED
HIGHEST LEVEL CHANGE AT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, OUR INITIAL
REACTION IS THAT CHRONIC AND GROWING DEFICIENCIES IN NATION'S
TRANSPORT SYSTEM, PRINCIPALLY AFFECTING ITS RAILROAD SYSTEM,
WERE UNDERLYING CAUSES, WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN PROXIMATE
REASON FOR SHIFT.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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